

# Colorado Stormwater Excellence Program



## OVERVIEW

The Colorado Stormwater Excellence Program (CSEP) is a public-private partnership to facilitate successful management of stormwater quality associated with construction activities. The program provides construction site operators and site owners with tools to obtain and maintain day-to-day compliance with local, state and federal requirements for discharges associated with construction sites.

The CSEP is a great option for any construction company that has made, or is ready to make, a commitment to environmental protection and compliance solutions. The program is an excellent solution for many companies that have been identified as having compliance issues. It provides a method to quickly and effectively implement a compliant stormwater management program that, in return, helps reduce the potential for enforcement.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Companies that participate in the CSEP utilize the Uniform Stormwater Management System for all construction sites where they hold a Colorado Discharge Permit System permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities. This system is an approach for managing construction site activities and water quality controls based on the fundamental aspects of a full ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

The Uniform Stormwater Management System is supported by third party oversight, assistance, and division coordination and support. When fully implemented, the CSEP results in demonstrated, quantifiable performance history which dramatically lowers the risk of state and EPA enforcement actions and associated penalties.

## COLORADO STORMWATER EXCELLENCE PROGRAM COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

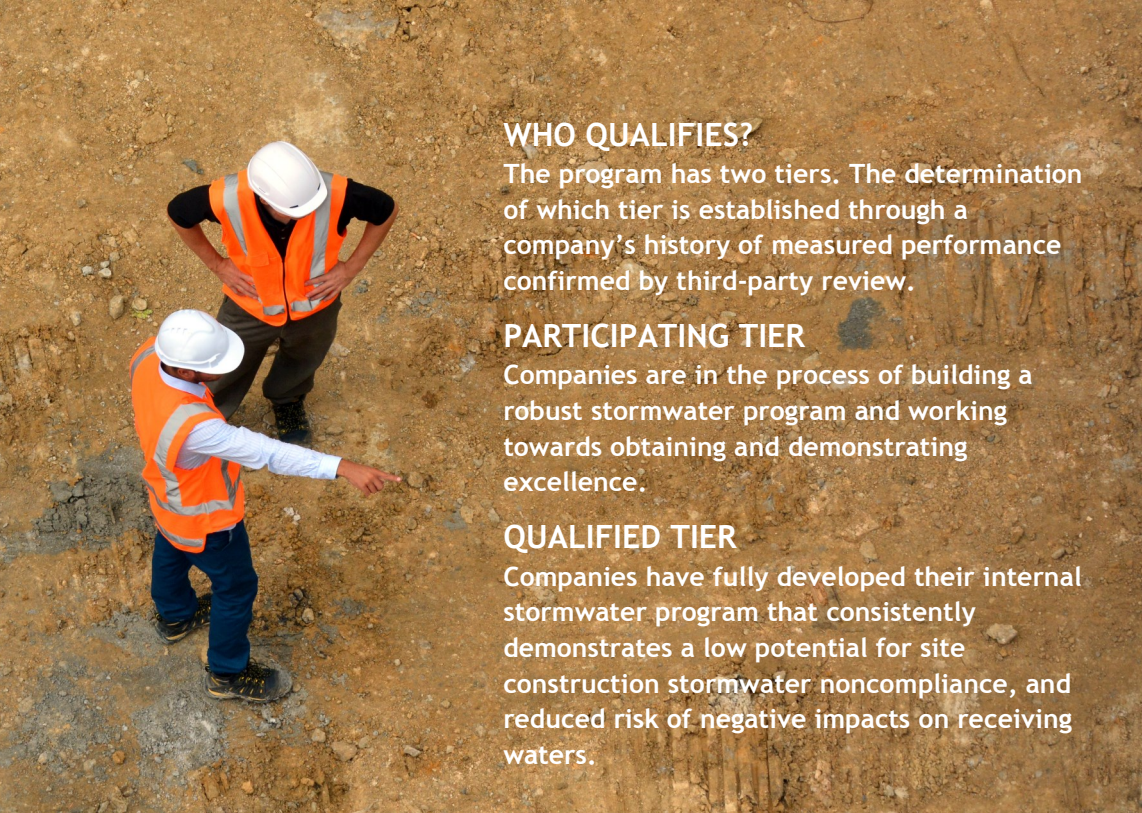
- Training, assistance and resources to implement the Uniform Stormwater Management System.
- Confidential monthly compliance performance review and measurement by a third-party reviewer. Coordination and evaluation of the third-party reviewer by the Water Quality Control Division to ensure consistency with state and EPA expectations.
- Monthly project compliance assistance by third-party reviewer.
- On-site compliance assistance from the Water Quality Control Division.
- Formal recognition of efforts from both the Water Quality Control Division and industry.



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### WHO QUALIFIES?

The program has two tiers. The determination of which tier is established through a company's history of measured performance confirmed by third-party review.

### PARTICIPATING TIER

Companies are in the process of building a robust stormwater program and working towards obtaining and demonstrating excellence.

### QUALIFIED TIER

Companies have fully developed their internal stormwater program that consistently demonstrates a low potential for site construction stormwater noncompliance, and reduced risk of negative impacts on receiving waters.

[www.agccolorado.org/safety/stormwater.html](http://www.agccolorado.org/safety/stormwater.html)  
[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wq-construction-permits](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wq-construction-permits)

### COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE AND REDUCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

In recognition of the documented history of high performance and compliance, construction sites with CDPS stormwater discharge permits held by qualified tier companies are not subject to targeted compliance oversight inspection by the Water Quality Control Division. The flexibility to provide this exclusion is outlined as part of the state statute that created stormwater administrator programs (C.R.S. 25-8-802).

In place of compliance oversight inspections, division staff visit these construction sites to provide training and answer questions for company personnel. The division also uses these visits to provide assessment and coordination with the CSEP third-party reviewers to ensure consistent and accurate CSEP performance reviews. The division site visits are coordinated in advance with the CSEP participant and are subject to a state policy identifying the intent is for assistance and assessment of the CSEP and not to conduct oversight to support potential enforcement. This service is unique to the CSEP.

Participant tier companies remain subject to targeted compliance inspection. However, it is typical division practice to not conduct targeted compliance inspections of new CSEP participants during their first three months of enrollment in the program. Exceptions may include a company recently identified by the division as having compliance concerns.

The division may still inspect any CSEP company based on complaints or other identified significant compliance concerns.

### CITIES, COUNTIES AND OTHER LOCAL OVERSIGHT AGENCIES

Cities, counties and other local oversight agencies may also choose to reduce oversight of qualified program participants. Specifically, those cities and counties subject to Municipal Separate Storm Sewers System (MS4) permits have the option of reducing inspection frequency for qualified tier companies. MS4 permittees can find a list of operators that meet the criteria for reduced level inspections on the Associated General Contractors of Colorado CSEP web page.

### HOW CAN I JOIN?

The CSEP is administered by the Associated General Contractors. Participation does not require membership with the association. For more information on joining the program, visit the Associated General Contractors of Colorado CSEP web page.

### PROGRAM AUTHORITY

State statute creates the authority and process for implementation of the Stormwater Management System Administrator Programs in Colorado (C.R.S. 25-8-802). Administrator programs are approved by the Water Quality Control Division to implement procedures, training, and third-party audits for compliance with federal, state and local construction stormwater quality requirements. The Associated General Contractors' Colorado Stormwater Excellence Program is Colorado's first approved Stormwater Management System Administrator Program.

### CONTACT

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